

REMARKS

Claims 12-17, 19, 29-32, 34, 35, and 38-42 are pending. Claims 38-42 stand allowed and claims 12-17, 19, 29-32, 34, and 35 stand rejected. By virtue of this response, claims 12 and 29 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 12-17, 19, 29-32, 34, 35, and 38-42 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants' remarks are presented in the same order in which they were raised in the Office Action.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider the Information Disclosure Statement and initial the submitted documents (including various Office Actions and Amendments filed in related cases). Applicants have submitted these documents to ensure, for example, that the Examiner is aware of other related pending applications, the application of references in the other applications by the Office, and arguments Applicants have made therein.

Claim Rejections- 35 USC § 103

Claims 12-17, 19, 29-32, 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanderheyden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078, 481) in view of Hentrich (U.S. Patent No. 6,095,445).

Independent claims 12 and 29 have been amended to include certain features similar to those of allowed claim 38. In particular, independent claim 12 is amended to recite that the storage cartridge housing has "only a single guide surface" disposed therein for guiding the storage tape away from the supply reel and then back to reengage tape of the supply reel before extending to the access window. Further, independent claim 29 is amended to recite a method comprising "receiving a data storage cartridge within a tape drive, wherein the storage cartridge includes a housing with a supply reel rotatably disposed therein and only a single guide surface." These features are clearly supported by the application as filed, e.g., at least by the claims as originally presented and Fig. 2; accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants submit that the combination of Vanderheyden and Hentrich fails to disclose or suggest the features of amended claims 12 and 29. In particular, the claims recite that the storage cartridge housing has “only a single guide surface” for guiding the storage tape away from the supply reel and then back to reengage tape of the supply reel before extending to the access window. Vanderheyden clearly discloses at least two guide surfaces 501 and 502 within cartridge 10 of Fig. 9 (see also, Figs. 4-7). Further, one of skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Vanderheyden to include a single guide surface because of the particular teachings thereof; for example, to present two or more levels or layers of tape at the tape head receiving portion 25 for access by a tape head. (Vanderheyden, col. 3, lines 2-4.) The addition of Hentrich fails to provide any reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would modify Vanderheyden to meet the features of the present claims.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that amended claims 12 and 29 are allowable over the combination of Vanderheyden and Hentrich. Additionally, all claims depending from claims 12 and 29 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 12 and 29.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 249212022700. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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